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Jesus the Messiah.

Jesus the Messiah. [An abridged edition of *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah.*] By Alfred Edersheim, D. D., Ph. D. New York: A. D. F. Randolph and Co. Price \$2.00.

Students of the Gospels are familiar with the larger work by Dr. Edersheim which has been before the public for several years. It was the author's purpose at some time to compile from the two volumes filled with materials for scholars a book which should present the results without the processes and authorities so fully supplied there, and thus appeal to a larger circle of readers. This praiseworthy conception has now been carried out after his death by those who were acquainted with his ideas and plans for such an abridgement. They have produced a book of which no one who obtains it can fail to enjoy and profit from the reading. The peculiar feature of Dr. Edersheim's larger book was its employment of Jewish materials to illustrate the life of Jesus. This he did on a scale of thoroughness and accuracy never before surpassed and by it his work has a permanent value. This smaller volume is beautifully printed and the editorial work has been done so skillfully, that henceforth only scholars will need to examine the volumes from which it has been abridged. It is not so full as the works of Geikie or Farrar, but in accuracy and freshness it is far superior to them. It is to be hoped that its sale will be large and its use among our Bible reading classes very widely extended.

The Epistle of James.

The Gospel of Common Sense as contained in the canonical Epistle of James. By Charles F. Deems, D. D., New York: Wilbur B. Ketcham. Pp. 322; price, \$1.50.

The author of this book is well known as a preacher and scholar. He has here furnished a series of expository lectures upon this epistle. After an introductory discussion of the authorship, which is assigned to James the brother of the Lord, the son of Mary and Joseph, the chapters are taken up and expounded in order. The presentation is vivid, the language racy, and the points made, vigorous and clear. Now and then comes a bit of fanciful allegorizing as that on the *Father of Lights* (pp. 83-85). We are inclined to think that he overstates the astronomical knowledge of the common people in the first century in connection with 1: 18, when he regards them as understanding the sun's movements. As to the coming of the Lord (5: 7) he thinks that the destruction of Jerusalem may have been referred to. In 5: 13-15, the remark is made that while the particular form of miraculous gifts there mentioned may have passed away, yet even up to the present these "gifts" themselves have been bestowed on certain individuals. In that special case the cure was miraculous. The use of the oil is not regarded by him as remedial. Here it seems that the expositor is scarcely right. The very mention of oil in the connection is enough to show that James regarded it as used to assist in the cure of the sick. The author has not produced a great book. It is a good example, however, of expository preaching, and will be useful to those who would preach from this Epistle.